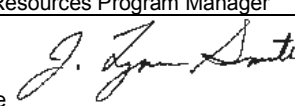


Position Description (Please read Instructions on the Back)										1. Agency Position No.			
2. Reason for Submission <input type="checkbox"/> Redescription <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Reestablishment <input type="checkbox"/> Other			3. Service <input type="checkbox"/> Hdqtrs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field		4. Employing Office Location		5. Duty Station		6. OPM Certification No.				
Explanation (Show any positions replaced) NPS Standard Position Description Fire Management Program			7. Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonexempt		8. Financial Statements Required <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Personnel Financial Disclosure <input type="checkbox"/> Employment and Financial Interest		9. Subject to IA Action <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
			10. Position Status <input type="checkbox"/> Competitive <input type="checkbox"/> Excepted (Specify in remarks) <input type="checkbox"/> SES (Gen.) <input type="checkbox"/> SES (CR)		11. Position Is <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisory <input type="checkbox"/> Managial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither		12. Sensitivity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Non Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Noncritical Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Critical <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Special Sensitive		13. Competitive Level Code				
15. Classified -Graded By		Official Title of Position		Pay Plan		Occupational Code		Grade		Initials		Date	
a. Office of Personnel Management													
b. Department, Agency or Establishment													
c. Second Level Review		FORESTRY TECHNICIAN		GS		462		07		JLS		11/24/98	
d. First Level Review													
e. Recommended by Supervisor or Initiating Office													
16. Organizational Title of Position (if different from official title) FUELS TECHNICIAN						17. Name of Employee (if vacant, specify)							
18. Department, Agency, or Establishment Department of Interior						c. Third Subdivision							
a. First Subdivision National Park Service						d. Fourth Subdivision							
b. Second Subdivision Alaska Region						e. Fifth Subdivision							
19. Employee Review-This is an accurate description of the major duties and Responsibilities of my position.						Signature of Employee (optional)							
20. Supervisory Certification. I certify that this is an accurate statement of the major duties and responsibilities of this position and its organizational relationships, and that the position is necessary to carry out Government functions for which I am responsible. This certification is made with the knowledge that this information is to be used for statutory purposes relating to appointment and payment of public funds, and that false or misleading statements may constitute violations of such statutes or their implementing regulations.													
a. Typed Name and Title of Immediate Supervisor						b. Typed Name and Title of Higher-Level Supervisor or Manager (optional)							
Signature				Date		Signature				Date			
21. Classification/Job Grading Certification. I certify that this position has been classified/graded as required by Title 5, U.S. Code, in conformance with standards published by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or, if no published standards apply directly, consistently with the most applicable published standards.						22. Position Classification Standards Used in Classifying/Grading Position Forestry Technician, GS-462 dated December 1991; Fire Protection and Prevention Series, GS-081, dated September 1991; Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technician Work in the Biological Sciences, GS-400, dated December 1991							
Typed Name and Title of Official Taking Action J. Lynn Smith Human Resources Program Manager						Information for Employees. The standards, and information on their application, are available in the personnel office. The classification of the position may be reviewed and corrected by the agency or the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Information on classification/job grading appeals, and complaints on exemption from FLSA, is available from the personnel office or in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.							
Signature 				Date 11/24/98									
23. Position Review		Initials		Date		Initials		Date		Initials		Date	
a. Employee (optional)													
b. Supervisor													
c. Classifier													
24. Remarks Department of Interior, FF/LE Retirement Team Specialist M. Pospahala. This PD has been approved as follows under 5 USC 8336(C) and 8412(d): X Firefighter ___ Law/Enforcement ___ Primary X Secondary/Administrative ___ Secondary/Supvy Approval Date December 17, 1998.													
*Agency Use Code should be entered in FPPS as last three spaces of position allocation number													
25. Description of Major Duties and Responsibilities (See attached)													

**STANDARD POSITION DESCRIPTION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

CLASSIFICATION TITLE: FORESTRY TECHNICIAN

SERIES AND GRADE: GS-0462-07

Introduction

This position is located in a National Park Service organization. The primary purpose of this position is to perform a variety of complex wildland and prescribed fire management technical support functions, including leading other employees in the implementation and monitoring of wildland and prescribed fire projects and fire effects monitoring. This position directly affects the design, operation, and adequacy of local fire implementation, monitoring, and evaluation activities.

Prior firefighting experience, as gained by substantial service in a primary firefighter position or equivalent experience outside the Federal government is a **MANDATORY PREREQUISITE** for incumbents of this position. This is an administrative position in the firefighting program of the park.

Major Duties

Serves as program lead for the fire-monitoring program for one or several parks. Examines existing fire monitoring programs, data and documentation at the park(s), identifies and prioritizes needs within the context of broader goals and objectives.

Leads and participates in the monitoring, collation, and reporting of live and dead fuel loading, fuel moisture, and fire behavior and weather data relating to spread rate, flame length, and other prescription elements.

Assists in recommending and/or selecting location and establishes fire effects observation cycles/intervals according to established protocols.

Assists resource professionals in field survey efforts such as archeology, vegetation surveys, resource inventories and data analysis.

Independently identifies grasses, herbs, shrubs, and trees. Prepares herbarium specimens and records microhabitat and plant association data. Verifies that field and voucher specimens are properly collected, identified, prepared and stored by other employees.

Prepares vegetation maps, field maps, and photographs of natural features from the ground. Navigates with map and compass to locate predetermined points within park(s). Locates field plots using GPS.

Trains and leads temporary technicians and volunteers to establish and monitor monitoring plots in a variety of fuel/vegetation types. Verifies that plots are selected and monitored according to established guidelines. Monitors work progress, analyze and solve operational problems,

recognize and report system design flaws, and recommends solutions or alternatives. Develops protocols to monitor vegetation, soil, air quality, and faunal parameters not specified in the National Fire Monitoring Handbook and/or in the adopted park protocols.

Enters natural resource field data into a personal computer using customized software. Routinely performs error checking, data entry quality control, and simple to complex statistical analysis. Performs analyses of fire weather, behavior, fire history and effects data. Works with fire behavior computer models such as the BEHAVE software program. Prepares regular time management summaries from the daily work logs of coworkers. Prepares estimates of predicted and actual work progress. Monitors current literature in the field of fire ecology and fire effects.

Prepares monthly work progress reports for supervisor. Prepares reports for each park of all work accomplished during the season. Provides the Regional Fire Monitoring Program specialist with a seasonal summary report evaluating the status and progress of each park's prescribed fire and fire monitoring program. Informs supervisor of monitoring implementation problems and proposes solutions. Documents all deviations taken, and why, from standardized procedures. Responds to, and initiates, written and verbal natural resources management inquiries relating to fire and vegetation management in an accurate and professional manner. Occasionally make presentations to special interest groups on fire and vegetation management. Presents results of data analysis to fire and resource management staff at each park.

Assists in planning work schedules, including timetable for seasonal work to be completed, and logistics of field/lab crews. Coordinates activities with park resource management and/or fire management staff at each park. Coordinates program activities with various neighboring Federal, State, and Local government agencies.

Provides technical guidance and assistance to other employees; provides or identifies training needed; monitors work progress; ensures needed equipment and materials are available; resolves technical problems; and reports on work accomplishment and problems encountered to supervisor.

Implements Prescribed Burn Plan (25% or less of the time)

Acts as Prescribed Burn Boss on projects as assigned. Develops prescribed burn plan, identifying needs, limitation, and considerations concerning the operation. Technically administers and leads all aspects of the planned prescribed burn operations and monitoring and holding actions on unplanned wildland fires, insuring that preparation, ignition, holding, mop-up, and rehabilitation are completed to the standards specified in the Burn Plan. Uses firefighting techniques, equipment and tools such as air operations, pumps, engines, axe, Pulaski, McLeod, hand and chainsaws, etc., in controlling fire and mop-up activities. Determines best method of control of fires, and makes judgments regarding location and width of fireline in relation to fuel types, topography, weather, etc.

Performs tasks to control and extinguish wildfires as needed.

Other Significant Facts

Must possess a valid state driver's license in order to drive four-wheel-drive vehicles with manual transmissions.

Must be in good physical condition in order to safely perform under field conditions.

Factor 1. Knowledge Required by the Position

Level 1-5, 750 points

Practical understanding of the effects of fire on natural resources, knowledge of fire ecology principles as they apply to vegetation types, fire research methods and procedures, fire weather, fire behavior, and the methods used to monitor, describe, and analyze fire behavior.

Knowledge of the techniques, policies, and practices of fire management as obtained through substantial service as a primary firefighter of the Federal government or in a similar firefighting position outside the Federal government is a **MANDATORY REQUIREMENT** of this position.

Substantial practical and technical knowledge of vegetation sampling fire monitoring methods, procedures, and technology, and the skill to apply that knowledge in order to solve practical problems in a wide range of functions.

Knowledge of the policies, techniques, and practices of wildland and prescribed fire operations.

Knowledge of agency and departmental policies covering vegetation management with particular emphasis on wildland fire ecology.

Knowledge of the NPS National Fire Monitoring Program and/or adopted park protocols including theory, program history and development, and program implementation.

Knowledge of activities and policies concerning natural resources management in the National Park Service and the park. Ability to tactfully impart this information to interested parties.

Ability to research fire and resources management issues, and effectively communicate this information orally and in writing in the form of reports, statistical data, basic assessment of findings and observations, and supporting graphic materials.

Knowledge of agency and departmental policies, directives and guidelines. Skill in interpreting and applying this guidance to wildland and prescribed fire operations.

Knowledge of GPS in order to locate field plots.

Knowledge of word processing, database management, and specialized software programs essential to fire monitoring activities.

Factor 2. Supervisory Controls

Level 2-3, 275 points

The supervisor defines objectives, priorities, and deadlines for assignments, and provides assistance on the more complex assignments. Assignments are conducted independently and as a team effort. The incumbent is relied upon to use cumulative experience and training in making judgments and in planning phases of work, and is expected to exercise initiative and independent judgment. Completed work is reviewed for appropriateness and technical soundness. Methods are not typically reviewed in detail.

Factor 3. Guidelines

Level 3-2, 125 points

Guidelines include precedents, the NPS National Fire Monitoring Handbook and/or adopted park protocols, DO-18, DO-77, and other NPS directives, technical manuals, standards, and guidelines. The incumbent uses considerable judgment to select and apply the proper guidelines to be used, and modify or improvise to adapt to unusual situations. The incumbent also makes recommendations to modify guidelines, procedures, and methodologies to improve the efficiency of the organization. Since every possible situation cannot be anticipated and covered in training, the employee must use judgment in selecting the appropriate guidelines and applying methods, techniques, and procedures due to the changing conditions in relation to the prescribed or wildland fire. Guides such as safety regulations must be applied.

Factor 4. Complexity

Level 4-3, 150 points

The incumbent's position has key responsibility for providing fire management technical assistance in regards to planning and implementing wildland fire and prescribed burn programs, as well as implements the fire effects monitoring program. This involves considering and evaluating factors such as fuel loading, ecosystem dynamics, fire history, fire situation and fire danger, resource availability, long-term weather forecasts, smoke management issues, public safety, resources threatened, safety hazards, costs, and monitoring problems. The incumbent evaluates each situation and identifies and considers interrelationships in order to select the most appropriate methodology from among several alternatives.

Factor 5. Scope and Effect

Level 5-3, 150 points

The purpose of the incumbent's work is to perform complex fire management support work and to lead others in the implementation of wildland and prescribed burn plans; to assist in the development of these plans; and to collect information for scientifically based management of prescribed fire operations in the park. The work directly affects the design and execution of projects, the accuracy and acceptability of findings and recommendations, and provides an essential basis for management conclusions and plans.

Factors 6 and 7 (combined). Personal and Purpose of Contacts (Level 2/A, 45 points)

Contacts are with park and regional NPS fire management and resource management personnel; with park and university research scientists; with other federal, state and local land management agencies; and with superintendents as well as other divisions or work units within the park(s) and other fire parks. The purposes of contacts are to obtain, relay, and exchange information.

Factor 8. Physical Demands

Level 8-3, 50 points

In addition to working in an office/laboratory setting, the work involves walking, running, climbing, and backpacking with a load over rough terrain, sometimes for extended periods; lifting moderately heavy items; bending and stooping for long periods; and working under occasionally inclement (cold, hot, snow, wind) weather conditions.

Factor 9. Work Environment

Level 9-3, 50 points

Work is performed in an office, laboratory, and in the field. Fieldwork includes exposure to extreme weather conditions and terrain, biting insects, wild animals, high pollen levels, dermatitis-causing plants, and poisonous snakes. Incumbent may be required to fly in

helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, and may be required to work in actual fire situations, which can be hazardous.

CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION

Classification Allocation: Forestry Technician, GS-462-07

Position Classification Standard Used: Forestry Technician, GS-462, TS-111, 12/91; Fire Protection and Prevention Series, GS-081, 09/91; Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technical Work in the Biological Sciences, GS-400, 12/91

Background

This position description is established as a standard position description for use by the National Park Service Fire Management Program and is appropriate for positions in Parks where the **PRIMARY PURPOSE** is to perform a variety of complex fire management technical support functions, including leading other employees in the implementation and monitoring of wildland and prescribed fire projects and fire effects monitoring.

Title and Series Determination

The Forestry Technician, GS-462 series (TS-111, 12/91) covers positions that primarily require a practical knowledge of the methods and techniques of forestry and other biologically based resource management fields. Forestry technicians provide practical technical support in the scientific management, protection, and development of forest resources. Forestry Technicians are most commonly found in first level units and are principally concerned with performing work supporting the implementation of projects and program goals. Since the majority of wildland and prescribed fire projects are carried out in forested areas, the GS-462 is the most appropriate series for this position. Furthermore, GS-0081, Fire Protection and Prevention Series (TS-108, 9/91), states that positions that include fire control, suppression, and related duties incident to forestry management work should be classified to the Forestry Technician Series. Forestry Technician is the authorized title for positions at grades GS-4 and above. Therefore, the proper title and series are Forestry Technician, GS-462.

Grade Level Determination

The forestry technician duties are evaluated by the Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technical Work in the Biological Sciences, GS-400, (TS-111, 12/91), which is in the FES format and provided below.

Evaluation Factors	Level Assigned	Points Assigned
1. Knowledge Required by the Position	1-5	750
Comments: Knowledge of standard, professionally accepted techniques and methods of wildland and prescribed fire management to perform complex support work, including implementing, monitoring, and evaluating fire activities.		
2. Supervisory Controls	2-3	275
Comments: Supervisor assists with unusual situations; incumbent independently plans		

and carries out steps; work reviewed for appropriateness and technical soundness.		
3. Guidelines	3-2	125
Comments: Incumbent must choose the most appropriate from several guidelines; makes recommendations to modify guidelines, procedures, and methodologies to improve efficiency.		
4. Complexity	4-3	150
Comments: Work involves various duties with different and unrelated procedures and methods in support of fire management functions; incumbent identifies problems, considers precedents, and recognizes differences, similarities, and interrelationships before choosing an approach.		
5. Scope and Effect	5-3	150
Comments: Work affects the accuracy and acceptability of the organization's fire management program.		
6. Personal Contacts	2	--
Comments: Contacts with employees from other organizations and the public in moderately structured setting.		
7. Purpose of Contacts	A	45
Comments: Exchange information.		
8. Physical Demands	8-3	50
Comments: Regular and protracted periods of considerable and strenuous physical exertion; prolonged standing, bending, and walking over rough terrain.		
9. Work Environment	9-3	50
Comments: Fieldwork is performed outdoors in steep terrain. Personnel must adjust and cope with exposure to weather elements, with exposure to heat, smoke, snakes, and insects.		
Total Points: 1595		
Final Grade Allocation: GS-07		
(GS-7 range is 1355 - 1600)		

Conclusion

The total points allocated to this position equal 1595 which falls within the GS-7 range of 1355 - 1600. The appropriate classification of this position is Forestry Technician, GS-0462-07.